

# The Charlotte JEWISH news

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## Charlotte Jewish Day School Establishes the Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award

The soul of Zachary Shporer, age 19, returned to God on Tuesday, April 10. Zachary was a graduate of Charlotte Jewish Day School and Barbara and Jerry Levin Jewish Middle School.

After CJDS and BJLJMS, Zachary continued on to the American Hebrew Academy for high school and continued to make us proud. Zachary was president of his class in his senior year. He made it his mission to improve campus life to an even higher level. He authored a proposal that a member of student government should sit on the schools Executive Board, thereby having student representation on the board. It was approved. Zachary was chair of the school Maccabiah games, and Editor in Chief of the school newspaper and school yearbook. One of his greatest honors was to be a Morehead-Cain semi-finalist.

Zachary was President of the 4 Corner Tzedakah fund. The AHA 4 Corner Tzedakah fund is the student run philanthropic organization of the American Hebrew Academy. The goal of the organization is to raise awareness of global, national, and local issues needing assistance and to fundraise in support of agreed upon causes. The distribution of

funds raised is democratically decided upon by polling the student body. During Zachary's chair, the organization raised the largest sum of money in school history. Large amounts were donated toward Haiti following their earthquake as well as for the Alzheimer Relief Fund, cancer research as well as to local charities.

Zachary was also honored to have a seat at the school's Va'ad Hakovod. Va'ad HaKavod is the American Hebrew Academy's Honor Council. It was a board that would decide the consequences of serious violations of the school policies and the Academy Honor Code, specifically violations of great magnitude. This board was comprised of two teachers, two students, faculty head, and dean. One student is elected to the Va'ad via a student body vote. Zachary was the choice of his peers.

Zachary was chosen to support the junior class in his senior year. Each underclass level has one senior chosen by the Dean of Student Life to live in that dorm and serve as an advisor. Zachary lived in the junior dorm and supervised and counseled his underclassmen on life at school and how to get things done. He loved serving as a role model and helping to build and develop character in others.

Not only did he shine in academics, athletic undertakings and his relationships, but he continued to stand proud and tall in his Judaism. It is not easy, especially in the South where the Jewish people are a very small minority, to take strong Jewish action. He was certainly kind, caring, and participated in all kinds of charitable activities. But, those are not uniquely Jewish. These actions can be expressed across the spectrum of all religions. Zachary, on the other hand, made it his business to also represent a uniquely Jewish message.

There is no way to replace a departed loved one, for each person is a complete world. But there is a way to help partially fill the void and to contribute to the elevation of the soul. When family and friends supplement their customary good deeds with further virtuous acts on behalf of the departed, they continue the work of his soul. By performing such acts in the memory of a loved one, we can truly build a living memorial.

We at CJDS want to do just that. We want Zachary's unique passion for Judaism to live on forever. Therefore, we have established the Zachary Shporer Jewish Pride Award. This award will be presented to students who have exhibited Jewish Pride during the year at each CJDS graduation. A committee will be appointed to



*Zachary on the American Hebrew Academy track team. He incorporated Jewish values into everything he did.*

choose from the nominations presented and a beautifully illustrated Tehillim (Book of Psalms) will be presented to the recipients in honor of this accomplishment. A plaque will be placed at CJDS with the names of all recipients from each year.

Parents and educators are asked to email nominations to [mgroner@cjdschool.org](mailto:mgroner@cjdschool.org). The nominations will be reviewed by May 15 and presented on the scheduled graduation evening.

We ask of God to finally bring the day when death shall be no more, when "death shall be swallowed up forever and God shall wipe the tears from every face." ☆



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### Also inside:

*The Charlotte Jewish Film Festival wins Charlotte magazine's 2012 BOB award! See page 5.*

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